

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content comprising:
 - a message receiving component that receives at least one ~~incoming~~ message for delivery to a user;
 - a filtering component that calculates a junk score for the at least one message; and
 - a content blocking component that partially blocks content of the at least one message ~~blocks at least a portion of message content~~ from appearing in at least a preview pane when the junk score exceeds a first threshold.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a classification component that classifies the at least one message as any one of a good state, a junk state, and a middle state if the at least one for message[[s]] is determined to be safe for an inbox but not safe for viewing or previewing, ~~the message~~-based in part on the junk score.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the message is classified at least in the middle state when the junk score exceeds at least the first threshold.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an analysis component that determines whether the junk score exceeds the first threshold.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an unblocking component that receives user input to unblock the blocked portion of message content of the at least one message, the unblocked message content appearing in at least the preview pane.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the unblocking component operates per message.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component operates per message or globally for substantially all messages.
8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the content comprises text, links, sounds, video, attachments, embedded content, applets, speech, and images.
9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first threshold is determined in part by user preferences.
10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component partially blocks at least a portion of the message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least the preview pane by performing at least one of the following:
 - hiding at least a portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;
 - hiding at least a portion of a subject line of the at least one message;
 - hiding a portion of content in a from line of the at least one message;
 - blurring at least a portion of the subject line of the at least one message;
 - blurring a portion of content in the from line of the at least one message; or
 - blurring at least a portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane.
11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the content blocking component replaces blocked content of the at least one message with at least one of a text notice, a graphics notice, a video notice, or an audio notice; wherein the text notice, graphics notice, video notice, and audio notices such notices warn[[ing]] users that potentially offensive content has been blocked from view.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a challenge-response component that requests message senders to correctly respond to at least one challenge per message sent by a respective message sender received when the junk score of the message sent by the respective message sender ~~at message~~ exceeds a second threshold, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is delivered to the user's inbox upon validation of the message sender's response before delivery of the message is permitted.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is any one of higher or lower than the first threshold.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is about equal to the first threshold.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is determined at least in part by user preferences.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender associated with the challenged sender is hidden from view in [[a]] the user's inbox until the challenge is correctly solved.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein content of the message sent by the respective message sender is partially blocked when the message is released to the user's inbox following a correctly solved challenge since the message's junk score exceeds the first threshold.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a rating component that rates incoming messages as unscanned before they are subjected to the filtering component.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein an unscanned message is[[s are]] hidden from view and [[are]] is not visible in the[[a]] user's inbox while additional data about the unscanned message is collected or while the unscanned message is being filtered by the filtering component.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein unscanned messages are made visible in a user's inbox when the filtering component is turned off.

21. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon the system of claim 1.

22. (Currently Amended) A method that mitigates viewing offensive message content comprising:

receiving at least one incoming-message;
computing a junk score for the at least one message;
previewing the at least one incoming-message in at least a preview pane; and
partially blocking ~~at least a portion of~~ message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least the preview pane when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising classifying the at least one message based on, at least in part₂[[on]] a computed junk score.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising classifying the at least one message as unscanned before computing the junk score.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising updating the at least one message from unscanned to some other rating based on, at least in part₂[[on]] its computed junk score.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the message content comprises₂[[ing]] at least one of text, images, sounds, audio, video, applets, embedded text, embedded images, URLs, and speech.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising unblocking blocked content of the at least one message when explicit user input to unblock the blocked message content is received.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein partially blocking the message content applies to substantially all messages ~~globally, based on a user activation when feature is activated.~~
29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising requiring a password to open messages associated with ~~in which content has been blocked content.~~
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising challenging a sender of the at least one message before revealing any blocked content of the at least one message-of the message.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising challenging a sender of the at least one message before allowing delivery of the at least one message when the junk score of the at least one message exceeds a challenge threshold.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the challenge threshold is any one of higher or lower than the blocking threshold.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the challenge threshold is about equal to the blocking threshold.

34. (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content comprising:

means for receiving at least one ~~incoming~~ message;

means for computing a junk score for the at least one message; and

means for partially blocking ~~at least a portion of~~ message content of the ~~at least one~~ message from appearing in at least a preview pane when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold, wherein partially blocking the ~~at least portion of~~ message content from appearing in the preview pane comprises at least one of the following:

hiding ~~at least a portion of~~ the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;

~~concealing~~ hiding ~~at least~~ a portion of a subject line of the at least one message;

concealing ~~a portion of~~ hiding content in a from line of the at least one message;

blurring ~~at least~~ a portion of the subject line of the at least one message;

blurring a portion of content in the from line of the at least one message; or

blurring ~~at least~~ a portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, further comprising means for challenging a sender of the at least one message before allowing delivery of the at least one message when the junk score of the at least one message exceeds a challenge threshold.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the challenge threshold is any one of higher or lower than the blocking threshold.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the challenge threshold is about equal to the blocking threshold.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, further comprising means for unblocking blocked content of the at least one message when explicit user input to unblock the content of the at least one message is received.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, further comprising means for classifying the at least one message as unscanned before computing the junk score.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer executable system, comprising:
a memory having stored therein computer executable components that transmit a data packet between two or more computer processes, wherein the data packet is transmitted to mitigate viewing offensive message content, and wherein the data packet comprises[[ing]]:

information associated with receiving at least one ~~incoming~~ message;
computing a junk score for the at least one message; and
partially blocking ~~at least a portion of~~ message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least a preview pane when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold; and
wherein
a processor that executes the computer executable components.

41. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component entirely blocks message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least the preview pane when the junk score exceeds the first threshold.

42. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising entirely blocking message content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane when the junk score exceeds the blocking threshold.

43. (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising:

means for completely concealing content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane when the junk score exceeds the blocking threshold, wherein completely concealing content of the at least one message comprises at least one of the following:

concealing the entire content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;

concealing the entire content of a subject line of the at least one message;

concealing the entire content of a from line of the at least one message;

blurring the entire content of the subject line of the at least one message;

blurring the entire content of the from line of the at least one message; or

blurring the entire content of the at least one message in at least the

preview pane.

44. (New) The system of claim 40, further comprising:

means for completely blocking message content of the at least one message from appearing in at least a preview pane when the junk score exceeds a blocking threshold.